

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Military Training Grounds at Mesto Libava

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

1. The military training grounds, Unit No. 5304, at Mesto Libava have the following leading personnel:
  - a. CO General Fuchs.\*
  - b. Supply Officer Major Novotny. Until February 1948 he was a member of the National Socialist Party. Thereafter he became an ardent Communist.
  - c. OZ Officer Major Antonin Sevcik, 40 years old and a 1933 graduate of the Military Academy. He is not clever but is an ardent and opportunistic party member.
  - d. Education Officer Staff Capt. Vrba, 35 years of age. He is devoted to the regime.
  - e. Quartermaster 1st Lt. Fiala, a former National Socialist, transferred here for political reasons.
  - f. Ordnance Officer 1st Lt. Frantisek Simk, a former National Socialist and transferred here after February 1948 for political reasons.
  - g. CO of Service Co. Major Ota Novak, a graduate of the 1934 class. He is a Christian Democrat and was transferred here for political reasons.
2. The Mesto Libava training grounds have the following ranges:
  - a. Infantry range, located south of Velka Strelina and Neprivaz, for firing of small weapons by special units such as reconnaissance troops and partisan details which take their training at Mesto Libava. Reservists also use this range.
  - b. Field range at Praslavice for use of infantry units. The barracks, built in 1937 or 1938, are now occupied by the 53rd SIG Battalion, which is garrisoned here permanently.

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- c. Antiaircraft gun range at Neprivaz for the practice of antiaircraft units subordinate to the Third Military District.\*\*
  - d. Sniper's range located near Varhost. CO is Col. Gassenheimer, aged 56, a veteran of World War I and a partisan during World War II.
  - e. Tank range located southeast of Smilov. This is a modern range, with mobile, electrically-operated targets, and reinforced concrete shelters and observation points.
  - f. Artillery range, southwest of Rudoltovice and Barnov, for practice with all types of artillery. Units are quartered at Rudoltovice-Barnov or in bivouacs.
- 3. Since 1 October 1949 an airfield has been under construction in the Stars Voda area, allegedly for aircraft assigned to assist in military training.
  - 4. A military labor camp, Unit No. 9991, is situated at the training ground at Velka Strelna. Enlisted men and non-commissioned officers who had been purged from military schools following the February 1948 coup were sent to this labor camp as punishment. Even junior officers are alleged to have been sent there for committing political crimes. Members of this camp train without weapons and work in woods and quarries; no one can leave Velka Strelna unless he receives permission from a medical officer.

Attachments: I - Sketch showing location of military training grounds at Mesto Libava.

II - Sketch showing installations of military training grounds at Mesto Libava.

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\* [REDACTED] Comment: The name of General Fuchs is not familiar. Most likely General Fuska, former Military Attache to the USSR, is meant. The latter replaced Col. Alois Speta of the Tank Corps in May 1949.

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\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: The military training grounds at Mesto Libava are the center for the training of units of the Third Military District. Infantry, artillery and tank units take their final field training at Mesto Libava.

[REDACTED] Comment: Mesto Libava is known to be located in the Second Military District, and it seems improbable that units of the Third Military District would be sent to train there.

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